



Duke Press Conference Quotes

Duke Canada Tour vs. Toronto



August 17, 2018 // Paramount Fine Foods Centre // Mississauga, Ontario

Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski

Opening statement:

"First of all, we want to thank our hosts Ryerson and Toronto, two great schools that have really good programs, for giving us the opportunity to play these two games. For all the organizers, the way they put these two games on, they were fantastic environments for us to play in. Obviously we want to thank the fans as they provided a great environment for the teams to play in. We've loved our stay in Toronto. We've gone out to eat and sight-see, and we could not have been treated better. So just a big thanks from our entire program for making these few days a great experience for us. In the game tonight, I thought they started out really well in spreading us and looking for threes. We did not do a good job of fanning out to them and we over-helped and left corners. They hit seven threes in just a little bit over a quarter. They did a good job of that. With about five minutes to go in the first half, we had a really athletic group in there that could switch one through five and we pretty much held them scoreless. We kept that group in at the start of the second half, and they didn't only play good defense but they turned defense into offense. Our bench did a really good job. The last 25 minutes of the game we played very well and that was the reason for differential in score. What they were trying to do against us was well done but we were able to switch one through five and it was very difficult for them to run that. I'm proud of my guys. These two games have given our guys a chance to play in front of a crowd. With three of guys—two guys who will be starters and Alex O'Connell would've been a starter here but he's going to be a key player for us—having those guys out gives Joey Baker, Justin Robinson, Antonio Vrankovic, those kids along with Jack White who would already be in the rotation, it's given them valuable minutes. Jack played excellent for him to have five assists and no turnovers. Joey hit three threes and Antonio getting eight rebounds, that was really good for us."

On the two Canadian opponents so far:

"We played two different teams. Ryerson is more athletic and plays a little bit more of a conventional system that's really good. I think both teams are well-coached. Toronto does what they need to do with their talent, that is to kind of spread you and get shuffle cuts off the high post and not play with the post while they look for threes. They keep their spacing well. To play against two different styles, that was good for us."

On Zion's attributes:

"I appreciate everything, he's a darn good basketball player. He has great body control and he can get by. You would think that with his size he would be a little bit cumbersome, instead he's graceful. He's very graceful and efficient. He can pass the ball, too. We didn't have that opportunity as much tonight but he can pass it. His second jump is so quick and he really doesn't care who's around. Coaching him, I thought he was going to be good, but he's a really special player. R.J. (Barrett) is too. They get along and the role guys around them are playing off of them well."

On R.J.'s game tonight:

"I think he and Zion were placed in a position in these two games to shoot it a lot. When we get our full complement of players, they'll still shoot the ball a lot but they won't shoot it as much as they did in these two games. I think when R.J. takes his time, he's an outstanding shooter. He's a moving guy so he makes really good moves to the basket and gets fouled. He'll hit his free throw better than he did these two days because he's going to get fouled a lot. They needed to shoot like they did and the other guys need to play off and get offensive boards and they did a good job of that."

On what he's looking forward to in Montreal:

"I'm looking forward to arriving safely and enjoying the one night we have out there. We've heard so much about what a great city it is and we're looking forward to that. On Sunday, we'll be looking forward to playing against a really good team and winning, while having a really good evening in the city before going back to Duke on Monday. This has been a really good trip for us. If we're treated the way we have been here, which I expect to happen, what a great trip it will be. I think they expect a crowd of almost 10,000 in Montreal for our game so it's good. That atmosphere you usually don't get on a summer tour anywhere."